Counterattack: Call to Action

What is it that keeps capitalist society alive?

—Work.

What does capitalist society offer to him who gives his work?

—Bones to gnaw on.

What, on the other hand, does it offer to the owners of capital?

—All they want, more than they want: ten, a hundred, a thousand turkeys a day, had they stomachs large enough. . . .

And if they can't eat the turkeys?

—The worker is jobless, dying of hunger, and rather than give the turkeys to him, they throw them into the sea.

Why not throw the capitalists and not the turkeys into the sea?

—Everyone is wondering why.

What is needed in order to throw the capitalists and not the turkeys into the sea?

—To overthrow the established order.

But what are the organized parties doing?

—On January 31, Sarraut shouts in the Chamber of Deputies, "I will maintain the established order in the street." The revolutionary parties (!) applaud.

Have the parties gone mad?

—They say they haven't, but they are afraid of M. de la Rocque.

And who is this M. de la Rocque?

—A capitalist, a colonel, and a count.

And . . . ?

—A prick.

But how can this prick frighten people?

—Because in the state of general stupefaction, he is the only one to take action!

Comrades,

A colonel gets excited and shouts that everything has to change; he is the

only one to organize for combat and to claim that he will be able to change it all. He lies, but at a time when disgust with parliamentary impotence is at its height, he is the only one on the political scene who is not a member of parliament! The crowd knows that events must be taken in hand if the revolting spectacle of bourgeois parliamentarianism—its continuous chatter and unspeakable hustling—is to be replaced. The crowd begins to look for a "man," a master, someone from outside parliament. And to many in the general state of distraction, a Colonel de la Rocque already seems to be that man.

That distraction reaches the point at which this character is seen as the "master" able to take charge of events; the crowd sees a "master" in the weakest of "slaves," the slave of the capitalist system, the slave of a mode of production which condemns men to gigantic effort ending only in exhaustion, hunger, or war!

We declare that the time has come to act as MASTERS. The masses have nothing to gain from the impotence of single individuals.

Only the coming REVOLUTION has the power to take charge of things, to impose peace, to organize production and abundance.

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